

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 221848Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9687

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 13100

EXDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: SGDS-1

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: UNESCO 97TH EXBD: CONVERSATION WITH
DRAGOLJUB NAJMAN

1. SUMMARY: DURING MAY 22 LUNCHEON WITH DRAGOLJUB NAJMAN, NOW NOMINATED AS ACTING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO, BAKER PUT FOCUS ON TWO POSSIBLE AREAS OF MOVEMENT MENTIONED IN SPTEL. NAJMAN AGREED TO UNDER-TAKE EFFORTS IN BOTH AREAS, BUT LAID STRESS ON SENSE OF FRUSTRATION DG IS DEVELOPING IN DEALING WITH ISRAELIS WHO, IN HIS VIEW, APPEAR TO BE CONTINUING TO EMPHASIZE THEIR ROLE AS OBJECT OF UNESCO DISCRIMINATION. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIOR TO DISCUSSION WITH NAJMAN, BAKER HAD EXPLORED WITH ISRAELI PERMREP YAPOU DEGREE OF ISRAELI INTEREST IN THIS PROCESS NOTING THAT ISRAEL IS STATE WITH CITIZENS CARRYING DIPLOMAS FROM BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN STATES IN EUROPE COULD HAVE PARTICULAR INTEREST IN ALL-EUROPEAN DIPLOMA EQUIVALENCY CONVENTION. YAPOU TOOK SAME LINE THAT HE HAD TAKEN ON QUESTION OF MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE STATING THAT HE HAD NO DOCUMENTATION ON THIS SUBJECT. BAKER REPLIED AS FAR AS HE KNEW THERE WAS NONE, BUT THAT IF A PROCESS WAS TO

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BE BEGUN TOWARDS ACHIEVING PARTICIPATION OR MEMBERSHIP

IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP, THERE MIGHT BE MERIT IN NOT WAITING UNTIL DOCUMENTATION SERVED UP.

3. DISCUSSION OF ISRAEL-UNESCO RELATIONS WITH NAJMAN
BEGAN WITH QUESTION OF ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN PROCESS
OF DEVELOPING EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON DIPLOMA EQUIVALENCY.

NAJMAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT JONES HAD SUGGESTED HIS FOCUS ON THIS ISSUE, BUT IMMEDIATELY WENT INTO RECITATION OF INITIATIVES WHICH DG AND SECRETARIAT HAD TAKEN TOWARDS ISRAELIS TO NO AVAIL. LATEST EXAMPLE WAS INVITATION TO ISRAELI NATIONAL COMMISSION BY CANADIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO, WHICH NAJMAN CLAIMED HAD BEEN INITIATED BY SECRETARIAT. THIS INVITATION, WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN EXTENDED TO A DOZEN OTHER COMMISSIONS INCLUDING TWO ARAB COMMISSIONS, HAD BEEN RECENTLY DECLINED BY HEAD OF ISRAELI NATIONAL COMMISSION, WHO CITED DECISIONS OF 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE AS REASONS. NAJMAN TOOK THIS AND RECENT PRONOUNCEMENT BY ISRAELI MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND BY ISRAELI EMBASSY IN PARIS AS EVIDENCE THAT ISRAEL DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN PARIAH ROLE. BAKER ARGUED THAT BEST DEFENSE FOR UNESCO WAS TO CONTINUE MAKING APPROPRIATE INITIATIVES IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT WAS SEEKING TO OVERCOME ANY POSSIBLE CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION. NEXT GOOD OPPORTUNITY APPEARED TO BE INCLUSION OF AN ISRAELI, EVEN AS OBSERVER, IN SMALL GROUP OF EXPERTS WHICH SECRETARIAT WOULD BE INVITING IN JULY TO FALL MEETING IN HELSINKI, TO BEGIN PROCESS FOR EUROPEAN CONVENTION. NAJMAN STATED THAT THIS OBVIOUSLY WOULD REQUIRE OBTAINING CONCURRENCE OF EAST AND WESTERN EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS. BAKER AGREED AND STATED THAT THIS WAS TYPE OF CAREFUL DIPLOMATIC PREPARATION FOR WHICH UNESCO SECRETARIAT HAD AMPLE QUALIFICATIONS IF THEY SET ABOUT IT.

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4. SECOND ISSUE EXPLORED WAS QUESTION OF BRINGING ISRAELIS TOGETHER WITH DG OR APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE OF DG SO THAT THEIR POSSIBLE NEW FLEXIBILITY ON A LEMAIRE VISIT COULD BE APPROPRIATELY EXPLORED. NAJMAN REVIEWED THE FAILURE TO BRING ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON TOGETHER WITH DG DURING FORMER'S PARIS VISIT IN APRIL AND OBSERVED THAT DG COULD NOT, AT THIS POINT, SEEK OUT ISRAELIS GIVEN LACK OF ISRAELI RESPONSE TO HIS LAST COMMUNICATION. HE STRESSED DG WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE ISRAELIS AT ANY TIME SHOULD THEY SO REQUEST. BAKER OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS OBVIOUSLY AN AREA FOR THIRD PARTY DIPLOMACY AND NOTED EFFORTS OF DAHOMEYAN PERMREP BOSSIER-PALUN WHICH WE HAD ENCOURAGED. NAJMAN ADMITTED THAT A MEETING BETWEEN DG AND MADAM LAMBERT OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS BEING WORKED OUT, BUT HE COULD NOT OR WOULD NOT PROVIDE DETAILS AS TO TIME AND PLACE. HE APPEARED DUBIOUS AS TO ITS PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS, EMPHASIZING THAT AN ISRAELI INITIATIVE WAS REALLY CALLED FOR AT THIS POINT.

5. BAKER PROBED NAJMAN AS TO WHAT PERSON OR COUNTRY WOULD BE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN PERFORMING THIRD PARTY FUNCTION. NAJMAN MORE OR LESS THREW UP HIS HANDS, OBSERVING THAT EUROPEANS GENERALLY FED UP WITH ISRAELI TACTICS AND APPEARED UNWILLING TO EXTEND THEMSELVES TO PROVIDE A BRIDGE FOR THEM. HE APPEARED TO BE SAYING THAT ONLY US COULD EFFECTIVELY PERFORM THIS ROLE.

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6. COMMENT: NAJMAN LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT, IN VIEW OF ISRAELI REJECTION OF UNESCO INITIATIVES, NEITHER HE NOR DG HAD MUCH ENTHUSIASM TO UNDERTAKING NEW ONES UNTIL THERE WAS SIGN IN CHANGE OF ISRAELI ATTITUDE. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO, THE IMPRESSION HE LEFT WAS THAT IF ISRAEL WERE, POSSIBLY THROUGH SOME THIRD PARTY, TO BE ABLE TO CONVEY TO DG OR AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE, A VIABLE CONTEXT FOR A LEMAIRE VISIT, HE WOULD BE MORE ENCOURAGED TO UNDERTAKE THE SOMEWHAT COMPLEX CONSULTATIONS PREREQUISITE TO INCLUSION OF ISRAEL IN THE PROCESS LEADING TO A EUROPEAN DIPLO-

MATIC CONVENTION. WHILE, AT THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, HE AGREED TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO UNDERTAKING THIS INITIATIVE, IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE DID SO RELUCTANTLY ASSUMING THAT ISRAEL WOULD FIND WAY REJECT THIS INITIATIVE. NOTHING YAPOU SAID COULD BE INTERPRETED AS PROVIDING ANY ASSURANCE THAT THIS WOULD NOT OCCUR. IN FACT, YAPOU COMMENTED SEVERAL TIMES THAT INCLUSION OF ISRAEL IN ABOVE-MENTIONED PROCESS WOULD NOT BE EQUIVALENT TO ITS ACCEPTANCE AS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP AND HE ONLY RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED THE ARGUMENT THAT IT WOULD BE A USEFUL STEP ALONG THE WAY. OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO GET CLEARER PICTURE OF ISRAELI REACTION BEFORE PRESSING SECRETARIAT FURTHER TO EXTEND INVITATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS13100
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750180-0317
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750527/aaaaaycd.tel
Line Count: 185
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO 97TH EXBD: CONVERSATION WITH DRAGOLJUB NAJMAN
TAGS: PORG, OCON, US, IS, UNESCO, (NAJMAN, DRAGOLJUB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006